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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

German FM expects a 'Yes' for Turkey's EU drive - Hurriyet
Solana: EU security requires Turkey's membership - Milliyet
Italy wants referendum on Turkey in EU - Sabah 10/17
German racists campaign against Turkey - Aksam 10/17
Tens of thousands call for an end to Iraq war - Aksam
NYT openly supports Kerry - Aksam
Guantanamo torture with 'rap' music - Hurriyet
Israel ends Gaza operation: 109 dead, 100 injured - Sabah
10/17

OPINION MAKERS

FM Gul seeks EU support in Berlin - Radikal
Greek FM: Turkey must become an EU member - Yeni Safak
Barzani: Kirkuk Iraq's internal problem - Zaman
New York Times' choice Kerry - Zaman
Iraq war protesters march in London - Zaman
'Top secret' US-UK missile agreement - Yeni Safak
NYT reports systematic torture in Guantanamo - Yeni Safak
Russia presses Iran not to enrich uranium - Cumhuriyet
Russia sets up permanent military base in Tajikistan -
Radikal
'Boss' returns to Tajikistan - Cumhuriyet
Israel destroys Gaza - Cumhuriyet 10/17
UN: 10,000 die in Darfur every month - Zaman 10/17

BRIEFING

FM Gul in Germany: FM Abdullah Gul, in Berlin as the official guest of his German counterpart Joschka Fischer, on Sunday praised Germany as a staunch supporter of Turkey's efforts to join the EU and expressed confidence that Berlin would help in overcoming French objections to Ankara's accession bid. Gul will be meeting with German leaders and non-governmental organizations on Monday and Tuesday. Gul's trip to Germany is the first in a series of visits that Turkish leaders will make to European capitals to build support for their country in the run-up to a crucial December 17 decision by EU leaders on whether to start accession talks with Turkey. Gul is scheduled to hold talks with German Federal Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission Chairman Volker Ruhe, Free Democrat Party (FDP) leader Guido Westerwelle and Christian Democrat Union (CDU) leader Angela Merkel. Merkel is advocating a 'privileged relationship' with Turkey rather than full EU membership. Gul will also meet representatives of Turkish associations in Germany. PM Erdogan will discuss the issue with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac in three-way talks in Berlin on October 26.

Turkey to buy German battle tanks: Germany and Turkey have agreed in principle on the sale of 246 second-hand Leopard II battle tanks to Turkey, Monday papers report. Ankara is waiting for the outcome of the December 17 EU summit to sign the agreement, papers speculate.

Greek Cypriots won't veto Turkey's EU drive: Weekend papers report Greek Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou as saying that Nicosia would not veto the opening of EU entry negotiations with Turkey. However, Iacovou expects Ankara to recognize Nicosia before the December 17 EU summit, and also urges Turkey to open its airspace and harbors to Greek Cypriot planes and vessels.

Report on Turkey's minorities, human rights: The Prime Ministry's Board on Human Rights prepared a report on minorities and human rights practices in Turkey five days prior to the release of the EU Commission's progress report on Turkey, Monday "Sabah" reports. The report urges Turkey to review the situation of its minorities before the EU asks for reforms in this area. The report advises Ankara to

permit the use of languages other than Turkish. Non-Muslim officials are not employed in state institutions, including the military, MFA, police and the intelligence service, the report notes. It also says that closing of Turkish political parties had been a violation of democracy. Ankara has to reassess its understanding of 'nationals' in order to catch up with the civilized world, the document stresses.

'Secret' protocol on Iraqi oil sales to Turkey: According to the Duelfer Report, a secret protocol was signed between Ankara and Baghdad in early 2000 for the sale of Iraqi oil to Turkey, says Saturday "Milliyet." The illegal trade went on for three years. Saddam Hussein has deposited \$499 million earned from this sale in Turkey's state-owned Halkbank, claims the report. \$157 million remained in Halkbank at the end of the war in Iraq. The US and the Iraqi interim government have demanded the money from Turkey. Ankara told both countries that the money will be used to pay for exports made by Turkish companies to Iraq, according to reports.

A new Kurdish party to be founded in Turkey: A new Kurdish political party is to be founded in Turkey by Dervis Akgul, a Turkish Kurd close to the Barzani family in northern Iraq, report papers. The new party will be opposed to the PKK/Kongra Gel and affiliates, said its founders.

Turkish detainee to be released from Guantanamo: Murat Kurnaz, a Turkish-German dual national being detained at Guantanamo for alleged ties with the Taliban, may be released after the US Presidential elections, reports Sunday "Sabah" in a story based on a Dere Spiegel magazine interview with Kurnaz's family. Kurnaz, who lives in Bremen, Germany, was apprehended at the Afghanistan-Pakistan border in 2002.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iran; Iraq

"The Focus Shifts Toward Iran"
Yasemin Congar observed in the mass appeal Milliyet (10/18): "Iran has become a top agenda item for Washington prior to the elections. The Bush administration did not want to take up the Iran issue until the U.S. elections were over, but Germany, France and the UK have pushed it onto the agenda. The G-8 meeting at the State Department reached agreement to propose to Iran a variety of commercial and political advantages in exchange of Tehran's immediately stopping the production of nuclear fuel. In fact, the agreement was concluded despite the Bush administration's opposition. Washington was not convinced about the rationale of the terms, but it did not want to be labeled as the one who blocked a G-8 initiative..If Iran fully complies with the term as well as the spirit of the initiative, it would enjoy significant benefits. However, if Tehran declines to comply, the Europeans will take the issue to the U.N. Security Council in order to pass a resolution that would bring the possibility of sanctions against Iran. . Given past events, a UNSC resolution could be a long procedure, and sanctions are not easily implemented. Iran might be unwilling to cooperate for similar reasons. If that comes to pass, a military operation against Iran could be an immediate agenda item for Washington, regardless of whether President Bush or Senator Kerry win the election."

"Iraqi Elections"
Fikret Bila wrote in the mass appeal Milliyet (10/17): "Ankara discussed the Iraqi issue at a summit last week, and security was named as the most important problem. The US has not yet provided Iraq with sufficient security and it seems it will not take the necessary measures before the US elections. Washington is focused on the election and does not want anything to have a negative impact on the voting. However, it is not possible to conduct a population census or hold a fair election in Iraq unless security is established. How fair will the results of the elections in January 2005 be? How will the population census, which must take place before the elections, be conducted and to what extent will it be reliable? There will be doubts as to the results of both the census and the elections, if they indeed they can be held at all."

EDELMAN